
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2042

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Johnson, Talcott and Hickel)

Read first time 03/05/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to reading in the primary grades; amending RCW
2 28A.230.190; adding new sections to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating new
3 sections; repealing RCW 28A.630.886; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that one way to
6 determine if a child's inability to read is problematic is to compare
7 the child's reading fluency and accuracy skills with that of other
8 children. To accomplish this objective, the legislature finds that
9 assessments that test students' reading fluency and accuracy skills
10 must be scientifically valid and reliable. The legislature further
11 finds that early identification of students with potential reading
12 difficulties can provide valuable information to parents, teachers, and
13 school administrators. The legislature finds that assessment of second
14 grade students' reading fluency and accuracy skills can assist teachers
15 in planning and implementing a second grade reading curriculum that
16 addresses students' deficiencies in reading and the second grade
17 reading essential academic learning requirements. The legislature
18 further finds that use of state-wide valid and reliable assessments
19 will enable schools and school districts to obtain grants to conduct

1 applied research in using effective reading programs for second grade
2 students and for improving teachers' instructional practices.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall identify a
6 collection of tests that can be used to measure second grade reading
7 accuracy and fluency skills. The purpose of the second grade reading
8 test is to provide information to parents, teachers, and school
9 administrators on the level of acquisition of reading accuracy and
10 fluency skills of each student at the beginning of second grade. Each
11 of the tests in the collection must:

12 (a) Provide a reliable and valid measure of student's reading
13 accuracy and fluency skills that includes a measure of rate;

14 (b) Be able to be individually administered;

15 (c) Have been approved by a panel of nationally recognized
16 measurement and assessment professionals; and

17 (d) Assess student skills with a list that begins with single
18 letters and progresses to words ordered in complexity. The test must
19 assess phonemic awareness, word recognition, and reading in connected
20 text. Text used for the test of fluency must be ordered in relation to
21 difficulty.

22 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall select tests for
23 use by schools and school districts participating in pilot projects
24 under section 3 of this act during the 1997-98 school year. The final
25 collection must be selected by June 30, 1998.

26 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop a per-
27 pupil cost for each of the tests in the collection that details the
28 costs for booklets, scoring services, and training required to reliably
29 administer the test. To the extent funds are appropriated, the
30 superintendent of public instruction shall pay for booklets or other
31 testing material, scoring services, and training required to administer
32 the test.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
34 RCW to read as follows:

35 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall create a pilot
36 project to identify which second grade reading tests selected under

1 section 2 of this act will be included in the final collection of tests
2 that must be available by June 30, 1998.

3 (2) Schools and school districts may voluntarily participate in the
4 second grade reading test pilot projects in the 1997-98 school year.
5 Schools and school districts voluntarily participating in the pilot
6 project test are not required to have the results available by the fall
7 parent-teacher conference.

8 (3)(a) Starting in the 1998-99 school year, school districts must
9 select a test from the collection adopted by the superintendent of
10 public instruction. Selection must be at the entire school district
11 level and must remain in place at that school district for at least
12 three years.

13 (b) Students who score substantially below grade level when tested
14 in the fall shall be tested at least one more time during the second
15 grade. Test performance deemed to be "substantially below grade level"
16 is to be determined for each test in the collection by the
17 superintendent of public instruction during the pilot year of 1997-98.

18 (c) Each school must have the test results available by the fall
19 parent-teacher conference. Schools must notify parents about the
20 second grade reading test during the conferences, inform the parents of
21 their students' performance on the test, and provide parents with
22 strategies to help the parents improve their child's score.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish a
26 second grade reading grant program. The purpose of the grant program
27 is to train teachers in teaching methods that have proven results
28 gathered through quantitative research, to assist all students in
29 beginning reading, and to contribute to applied research on beginning
30 reading.

31 (2) Schools and school districts may apply for second grade reading
32 grants. To qualify for a grant, the grant proposal must provide that
33 the grantee will conduct applied research in beginning reading using
34 models of teaching methods and materials that are based on proven
35 results gathered through quantitative research. To the extent funds
36 are appropriated, the superintendent of public instruction shall make
37 initial grants available by September 1, 1997, for schools and school
38 districts voluntarily participating in pilot projects under section 3

1 of this act. Subject to available funding, additional applications may
2 be submitted to the superintendent of public instruction by September
3 1, 1998, and by September 1st in subsequent years. Grants will be
4 awarded for one year only. The superintendent of public instruction
5 shall award grants to train teachers in teaching methods that have
6 proven results gathered through quantitative research to assist all
7 students in beginning reading.

8 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall coordinate grant
9 awards under this section with other grant programs under RCW
10 28A.300.295 and any continuation of funding under RCW 28A.300.138. The
11 superintendent of public instruction shall also coordinate with the
12 center for the improvement of student learning for the purpose of
13 providing assistance and evaluation services and to assure that results
14 from grant activities contribute to a state-wide research base. The
15 center for the improvement of student learning shall develop the grant
16 application, design and conduct evaluations of the grants, and
17 participate with the superintendent of public instruction in selection
18 of grant awards. The evaluations of the grants shall review the
19 effectiveness of the instructional models and their implementation.

20 (4) The superintendent of public instruction shall submit
21 biennially to the legislature and the governor a report on the one-year
22 second grade reading grant programs. The first report must be
23 submitted not later than December 1, 1999, and each succeeding report
24 must be submitted not later than December 1st of each odd-numbered
25 year. Reports must include information on how the schools and school
26 districts used the grant money, what types of second grade reading
27 model teaching methods were used, and how they were implemented.

28 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall disseminate
29 information to the school districts five years after the beginning of
30 the grant program regarding the results of the effectiveness of the
31 models of teaching methods and materials and implementation strategies.

32 (6) Funding under this section shall not become part of the state's
33 basic program of education obligation as set forth under Article IX of
34 the state Constitution.

35 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.230.190 and 1990 c 101 s 6 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 (1) Every school district is encouraged to test pupils in grade two
38 by an assessment device designed or selected by the school district.

1 This test shall be used to help teachers in identifying those pupils in
2 need of assistance in the skills of reading, writing, mathematics, and
3 language arts. The test results are not to be compiled by the
4 superintendent of public instruction, but are only to be used by the
5 local school district. School districts shall test students for second
6 grade reading accuracy and fluency skills starting in the 1998-99
7 school year as provided in section 3 of this act.

8 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall prepare and
9 conduct, with the assistance of school districts, a standardized
10 achievement test to be given annually to all pupils in grade four. The
11 test shall assess students' skill in reading, mathematics, and language
12 arts and shall focus upon appropriate input variables. Results of such
13 tests shall be compiled by the superintendent of public instruction,
14 who shall make those results available annually to the legislature, to
15 all local school districts and subsequently to parents of those
16 children tested. The results shall allow parents to ascertain the
17 achievement levels and input variables of their children as compared
18 with the other students within the district, the state and, if
19 applicable, the nation.

20 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall report annually
21 to the legislature on the achievement levels of students in grade four.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. RCW 28A.630.886 and 1995 c 303 s 2 are each
23 repealed.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 (1) The superintendent of public instruction may use up to one
27 percent of the appropriated funds for administration of the second
28 grade reading grant program established in chapter . . . , Laws of 1997
29 (this act).

30 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt timelines
31 and rules as necessary under chapter 34.05 RCW to administer the
32 reading grant program in section 2 of this act.

33 (3) Funding under this section shall not become a part of the
34 state's basic program of education obligation as set forth under
35 Article IX of the state Constitution.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
4 immediately.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If specific funding for section 4 of this
6 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number and section number,
7 is not provided by June 30, 1997, in the omnibus appropriations act,
8 sections 4 and 7 of this act are null and void.

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